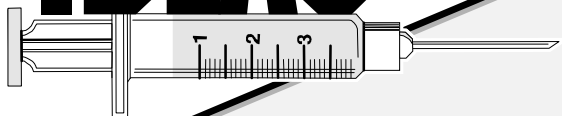


OTHER IDEAS

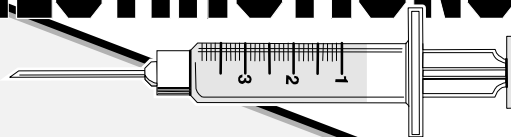


Do not put commercial "sharps" containers into your residential trash; they are more likely to shatter under pressure and expose people to loose syringes. Studies indicate that the recommended two-liter soda bottle is able to withstand more stresses around the home and at the landfill.

Call the local SCDHEC Environmental Quality Control office or your local health department for assistance with disposal options in your area or call the Infectious Waste Section of DHEC in Columbia at (803) 896-4000.



SYRINGE DISPOSAL RESTRICTIONS



This brochure was designed for assistance with disposal of syringes or lancets used in private residences. Such wastes produced in the healthcare industry are strictly regulated under the South Carolina Infectious Waste Management Regulations R.61-105.


This information was prepared by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control with assistance from the Washington State Department of Ecology and the Infectious Waste Public Education Committee.




South Carolina Department of Health
and Environmental Control

Brochure designed by
Communication Resources for the
Bureau of Solid & Hazardous Waste Management

CR-001148 3/99

 printed on recycled paper

GET THE POINT BE SAFE WITH SYRINGES

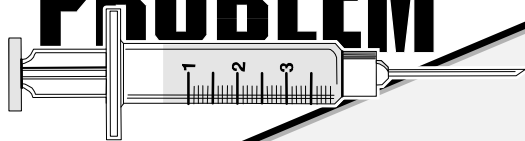


A HOME GUIDE TO SYRINGE DISPOSAL



South Carolina Department of Health
and Environmental Control

THE PROBLEM

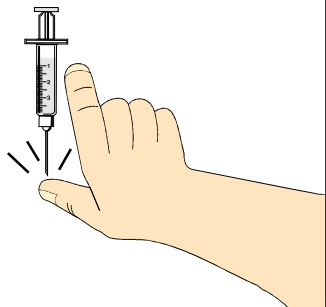


If you use syringes to control diabetes, allergies, or any other medical symptom, your loose syringes thrown in your trash can hurt people.

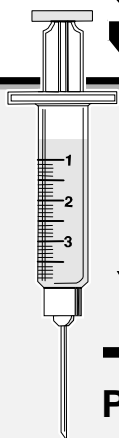
From an article in *The Charleston Post & Courier* dated September 9, 1992, it was quoted that, "One of the biggest hazards of being a sanitation worker in North Charleston is the possibility of being stuck with a hypodermic needle while picking up trash bags."

Even though you may feel healthy, your used syringes can pass on germs.

Serious diseases such as Hepatitis B can result from an accidental needle stick!



THE SOLUTION



Safer Ways to Dispose of Your Syringes

Plastic Soda Bottles

Sticker - Label an empty two-liter soda bottle with the warning

"DO NOT RECYCLE"

using either a "pre-made" warning sticker or one that you make.

Store - Carefully put each of your used syringes into the bottle.

Seal - Put tape over the closed bottle cap when the bottle is full.

Safe Disposal - Dispose of the filled bottle in your household trash.

Now your syringes are safely held in a container that protects people from needle sticks and is unlikely to break open on its way to the landfill.

REMEMBER



- Keep your container out of reach of small children and pets!
- Never flush your syringes down the toilet!
- Don't fill your container to the top! Allow two to three inches in-between the syringes and the neck of the soda bottle.
- Put a lid on it! After you use a syringe or lancet, put it directly into a two-liter soda bottle with a tight cap.
- Pitch in! When the soda bottle is full and tightly sealed, throw it out in the trash.

